**Theme Detailer**

Name: Boram Lee Meeting # 2 Pages: 182-260

Literature Circle's Name: *It’s Kind of a Book Club*

**Theme #1**

**Negative viewpoints toward the people and the world**

**Passage 1: on page 196 and the last paragraph**

“… Some people here who treat you like they have no respect for you as a human being, which I take personal offense to, and just because I went to my doctor and told him, ‘I’m not afraid of dying; I’m only afraid of living, and I want to put a bayonet through my stomach,’ that doesn’t mean I’m afraid of any of you.”

“Let’s concentrate on our discussion of things that make us happy, Humble,” says the psychologist.

“And I know about psychologists, when they’re writing down what you’re saying they’re really writing down how much money they’re going to get when they sell their latest yacht, because they’re all yuppies with no respect…” (197).

After Craig got accepted to Pre-Professional High School, he lives under peer-pressure, stops eating and experiences depression. He feels worthless and finally goes to the hospital and checks into a mental clinic. There are many people who have negative viewpoints toward the people and the world. For example, Humble, one of the patients in the hospital, believes that psychologists do not truly care about their patients, but only look for money from them. He does not trust others and this quote reveals that his friends could have betrayed him before. Moreover, Humble is not afraid of dying; he does not have any motive to live the world. This shows that he lost his will to live and sees the world negatively.

**Passage 2: on page 206 and paragraph 4**

“There’s a lot of yuppies in this place, and you have that look about you, you know – the yuppie look of people with money?”  
“Yeah.”

“People who don’t care about other people. Unlike me. See, I genuinely care about other people. Does that mean that I sometimes won’t be inclined to beat the hell out of somebody? No, but that’s my environment. I’m like an animal” (206).

Again, Humble criticizes the world. In this passage, the readers can realize that Humble pessimistically thinks about the world and does not appreciate about his environment. He has experienced the complicated society where people only look for themselves and compete, and now he believes that he is the victim of the real world. In this manner, his negative belief does not diminish.

**Passage 3: on page 212 and paragraph 2**

“The problem is I’ve been living in my car for the last year. I have nothing; I have the clothes on my back and that’s it. The only thing I have is the car and now the car has been towed and all my stuff is inside. There’s thirty-five hundred dollars’ worth of film equipment in there” (212).

The hospital is full of people who are addicted or depressed; there is no one who expects the positive events. For them, life is hard each and every single day and the pain continues day after day. Because they have nothing to gain or to lose, they do not have any motive to overcome their illness and start a new life. This quote describes that people endlessly confronts the problem and live depressingly.

**Theme #2 Self-Consciousness**

**Passage 4 on page 221 and last paragraph**

“I’m Charles.” He shakes with everyone. “They’re going to take really good care of your son here. He’s a good guy.”

“How about you; what are you in for?” Dad asks. I kick him. Doesn’t he know what not to ask?

“It’s okay, Craig!” J/C touches my shoulder.

After Craig checks into the mental hospital, his family comes to see him. There, Craig’s dad meets Charles, another patient in the hospital. Yet, with care and curiosity, his dad asks Charles about his illness. Because Craig is self-conscious and believes that is rude, he kicks his dad. However, Charles does not care and this shows how Craig cares about people’s point of views.

Also, he is aware of his environment too much.

**Passage 5 on page 240 and 1st paragraph**

“Thursday? I can’t wait until Thursday, Doctor. I have too much school. That’s four days of school. If I miss four days I will be so behind. Plus, my friends…”

“Yes?”

“My friends will know where I am!”

“Aha. Is this a problem?”

“Yes!”

“Why?”

“Because I’m here!” I gesture out at the hall.

This evidently shows that Craig is self-conscious. Even though he causes his illness and is responsible to overcome, he feels shameful and worries how people would think about him. In this scene, he does not want people to know about his situation and tries to deny and hide from them. Based on Aaron’s and Nia’s characteristics in the novel, they would not truly care about Craig, but Craig is still anxious and self-conscious.

**Passage 6 on page 260 and 3rd paragraph**

Great, soldier, now you’re depressed and in the hospital and a drug addict. And everyone knows.

This is the last sentence of the part five and here, he emphasizes the fact that everyone knows about him and his illness. Yet, he is self-conscious because not every cares about him and people are busy with their own businesses. This theme also extends to another theme about depression; because he believes everyone cares about him, he becomes more self-conscious and aware of the world.